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NATIONAL DRUG POLICY BOARD Washington, D.C. 20530

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OCT 1 5 1987

MEMORANDUM

To:

All Executive Branch Agency Heads

From:

Edwin Meese III Www.Muse III

Chairman, National Drug Policy

Board

James C. Miller

Director

Office of Management and Budget

Constance J. Horner

Director

Office of Personnel Management

Re:

Anti-Drug-Testing Legislation

At the Executive Session of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs on July 31, the Committee voted to adopt an amendment to S. 9, the Service-Disabled Veterans Benefits Improvement Act of 1987, that virtually would prohibit the Veterans Administration from conducting any program to test its employees for the illegal use of drugs. As you know, such drug-testing programs throughout the Executive Branch are required by Executive Order 12564 and, after protracted and sensitive negotiations between the Administration and the Congress, now operate in accordance with the carefully-crafted compromise on this issue that is codified in Public Law 100-71. The Committee's amendment violates both the letter and the spirit of the compromise agreement that we negotiated on behalf of the Administration.

In his August 6, 1987 letter to the Veterans' Committee Chairman, Senator Cranston, Veterans Administration Administrator Thomas K. Turnage declared that his agency is "implacably opposed to any legislative language which would exempt the VA from fully implementing the President's Drug-Free Workplace Program." On behalf of the rest of the Administration, we join General Turnage in expressing the same implacable opposition. When we participated in the negotiations that led to the enactment of the drug-testing provisions of Public Law 100-71, it was the understanding of all of the parties to these negotiations that

